UNITED NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/190
S/1998/691
24 July 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Items 19 and 36 of the provisional agenda*
ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE UNITED NATIONS
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 23 July 1998 from the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of our respective Governments, we should like to request your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and the letter of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Slovenia, addressed to H.E. Bronislaw Geremek, Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 19 and 36 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Bosnia and Herzegovina

(Signed) Slobodan TAŠOVSKI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Republic
of Macedonia

(Signed) Jelena GRČIĆ POLIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the
Republic of Croatia

(Signed) Danilo TÜRK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Slovenia

* A/53/150.

Annex

Letter dated 1 July 1998 from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Slovenia addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to inform you herewith of the common position of the Governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Slovenia with regard to the issue of possible membership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Our Governments adhere to the position of the international community regarding the international legal personality of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as expressed in relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the Opinions of the Arbitration Commission of the United Nations/European Community Conference on the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. According to United Nation Security Council resolution 777 (1992) and General Assembly resolution 47/1 of 22 September 1992, the State formerly known as the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has ceased to exist and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) cannot automatically continue membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations. The issue of continuity of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is also dealt with in the following United Nations Security Council resolutions: 757 (1992), 821 (1993) and 1022 (1995).

Similarly, the United Nations/European Community Arbitration Commission, in its Opinion No. 8, confirmed that the dissolution of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was complete and that the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia no longer existed. In Opinion No. 9, the Commission also stated that five new States had emerged on the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as equal successor States. In Opinion No. 10, the Commission stated that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is a new State and thus cannot be considered the sole successor to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Consistent with the above-mentioned position of the international community, our Governments hold the view that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as a new State, should adhere to the established procedure for admission into the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Therefore, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia should apply for membership in the manner as was done by all other new States, including our four successor States.

We are aware of the existing stability and security concerns in south-eastern Europe. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is an important part of these concerns as well as its solutions. Inclusion of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in OSCE and other international organizations would significantly enhance stability in the region, provided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia fully shares its responsibility along the well-known European norms for the overall situation in the country and in the region. Our Governments

support such an integration of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia into the international community.

In this regard, we would like to reiterate that any inclusion of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in OSCE and other international organizations should be based on the fact that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is a new State, one of the successors to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Any other approach or solution would only endanger the prospects of full normalization of the relations between the five successor States and would threaten peace and stability in the region. Therefore it would meet strong objection from the four successor States.

(Signed) Dr. Jadranko PRLIĆ
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Bosnia and Herzegovina

(Signed) Dr. Mate GRANIĆ
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister
for Foreign Affairs of the Republic
of Croatia

(Signed) Dr. Blagoj HANDZISKI
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Macedonia

(Signed) Dr. Boris FRLEC
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Slovenia